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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,045	07/31/2001	Ramesh Nagarajan	15-12	4258
32498	7590	10/18/2006	EXAMINER	
CAPITOL PATENT & TRADEMARK LAW FIRM, PLLC ATTN: JOHN CURTIN P.O. BOX 1995 VIENNA, VA 22183			BLOUNT, STEVEN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2616	

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/919,045

Applicant(s)

NAGARAJAN ET AL.

Examiner

Steven Blount

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,6,9 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 - 5, 7 - 11, 13 - 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The finality of the previous Office action is withdrawn in view of the new grounds of rejection presented below. The examiner regrets any inconvenience this may have caused the applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,719,868 to Young.

With regard to claim 1, Young teaches announcing time slot and frequency channels to be used for transmission between neighboring nodes, wherein the link resource comprises the open-air communication channel over selected frequencies and times. The predefined sequences comprises the order in which the neighboring nodes are allowed to transmit via the time slot each is assigned to transmit in, where this information is exchanged and negotiated between neighboring nodes as is described in col 4 lines 15+, where the negotiation comprises verifying that there is no conflict.

Young does not however explicitly teach "receiving a connection request". However, the "announcing and confirming the assignment of individual slots" is really at least an obvious variation of a connection request, since it is a request to form a connection subject to the constraints placed on the connection in light of the conflicting times as discussed above, and this difference would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

With regard to claim 2, note the use of a table in col 1 lines 57+, and note that it is well known that the wireless devices in Young communicate via ports.

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With regard to claim 6, see the rejection of claim 1 and note all the method steps are taught therein.

With regard to claim 9, see the rejection of claims 1 and 6.

With regard to claim 12, see the rejections above and note that the apparatus inherently includes a memory, or else the tables could not be stored.

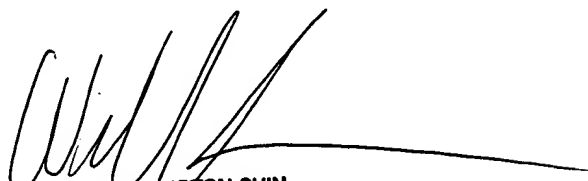
3. Claims 3 – 5, 7 – 8, 10 – 11, and 13 – 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Blount whose telephone number is 571-272-3071. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Doris To, can be reached on 571 – 272 - 7629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SB 10/16/06



WELLINGTON CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER